

Washington, DC (September 15, 2011) – Rep. Gus Bilirakis (FL-09), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, on Wednesday attended a hearing to address U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA) and discuss whether taxpayer dollars are being used to support dangerous activities.

"As the Palestinian Authority is on the threshold of making a unilateral declaration of statehood before the UN, it is even more important that the United States reexamines its foreign assistance to the PA, particularly during these devastating economic times," Bilirakis said.

Bilirakis specifically addressed the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, whose stated goal since its inception in 1950 has been to essentially keep the Palestinian people in a refugee status. The U. S. has already wasted \$4 billion in aid on this agency.

"The last place U.S. taxpayer dollars should be going to is United Nations Relief and Works Agency, an agency whose interests have been so inextricably intertwined with the cause of Hamas that it's hard to tell the two entities apart," he said. "We must stop funding organizations that are not only wasteful and fraudulent, but also those who seek to undermine peace and democracy in the Middle East."

Watch Bilirakis question the witnesses below: